

A SERVICE OF THE WORD TO MARK THE END OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR IN A LOCAL CHURCH

Preparation

GREETING

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you all
and also with you.

Or

We meet in the presence of God
who knows our needs,
hears our cries,
feels our pain,
and heals our wounds.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE

God is our refuge and strength;
a very present help in trouble.

Psalm 46.1

I lift up my eyes to the hills –
from whence will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord,
Who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 121.1-2

What does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6.8

This I call to mind,
and therefore I have hope:
the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning.

Lamentations 3,21-23

Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary
they shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40.31

HYMN

BIDDING

Brothers and Sisters,
as we commemorate the centenary of the ending of the First World War,
we come together to offer to almighty God
our worship and praise and thanksgiving
to draw near to the throne of God
in penitence and humility;
to hear his proclamation of justice and righteousness;
to remember those who participated
in the war from our parish/town;
to acknowledge the relief and joy
at the ending of this time of great hostility,
and the anguish, sorrow and grief
of those who never shared in that relief and joy;
to remember a world and lives changed forever,
yet with an uncertainty for the future and of lasting peace;
to pray for all those who continue to serve
in our armed/defence forces,
and to pray that in the power of his spirit
we may serve him in the pursuit of his heavenly realm.

Or

Almighty God,
you call us into a common fellowship
of solidarity and love;
draw near to us as we commemorate
the ending of the First World War
and those who died in that conflict.
As we reflect on their sacrifice and the horrors of war,
may you move us to always work for peace
and justice in our broken world;
this we ask through the Prince of Peace,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Penitence

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart God will not despise.
Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion,
and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.

Lord God,
you sent your Son to reconcile us to yourself
and to one another.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus,
you heal the wounds of sin and division.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Holy Spirit,
through you we put to death the sins of the body – and live.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Or

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart God will not despise.
Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion,
and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.

For boundless love of self,
and for failing to walk with humility and gentleness:

Lord in your mercy
Forgive our sin

For longing to have what is not ours,
and for hearts that are not at rest with ourselves:

Lord in your mercy
Forgive our sin

For misuse of human relationships,
and for unwillingness to see the image of God in others:

Lord in your mercy
Forgive our sin

For jealousies that divide families and nations,
and for rivalries that create strife and warfare:

Lord in your mercy
Forgive our sin

For inequity in sharing the gifts of God,
and for carelessness with the fruits of creation:

Lord in your mercy
Forgive our sin

For hurtful words that condemn and angry deeds that harm:

Lord in your mercy
Forgive our sin

For idleness in witnessing to Jesus Christ,
and for squandering the gifts of love and grace:

Lord in your mercy
Forgive our sin

The priest pronounces this absolution.

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
Have mercy on you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Beatitudes (BCP pages 223-224) may also be used

ACT OF COMMEMORATION

The Names inscribed on the memorial may be audibly read aloud.

Those wishing to do so come forward to lay wreaths, light candles, or offer other symbols of remembrance and hope, such as single flowers or crosses.

This may take place at this point or following the Ministry of the Word.

THE SILENCE

PRAYER

Ministry of the Word

PSALM

HYMN

A hymn may be sung.

THE FIRST READING

The reader says

A reading from ... chapter ... beginning at verse ...

At the end the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN

A hymn may be sung.

THE SECOND READING

The reader says

A reading from ... chapter ... beginning at verse ...

At the end the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE SERMON

Responding

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us confess the faith of the Church.

We believe in God the Father,
who made the world.

We believe in Jesus Christ, his Son,
who redeemed humankind.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God.

Or

Let us declare our faith in God:

We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.

We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Apostles Creed may also be used.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Almighty God, Father of Heaven and Earth:
In remembering those who endured the First World War,
we give you thanks for that conflict's conclusion;
grant that in our memories and reflections,
we may better learn the way of peace
and of compassion in our own lives.

Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Lord of the Church,
we remember the responsibility we have
as the body of Christ,
to pray for peace, to bring forth your word
and to see swords beaten into ploughshares:
especially, we pray for chaplains
who minister to the members of our armed/defence forces; grant them
discernment, perseverance and protection.

Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Lord of all Creation,
as your son faced the violence of his own death,
yet cried "Father, forgive!"
so we pray for hearts of forgiveness in your world.
Where nation will rise against nation, people against people, we pray that
peace might prevail.
Bless the leaders of the world with clarity of vision
to speak peace into situations of conflict.

Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Lord of compassion,
we give thanks for the women and men
who risked their lives
for the sake of others during the First World War:
especially, we remember those doctors and nurses who served on the
Front Lines.

Grant your blessing to those
who serve in the theatre of war today,
whether in combat, in logistical support or medical care.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Lord of eternity,
you knit together your elect
in the Communion of all your saints;
we remember with gratitude
the fallen of the First World War and of conflicts since.
We thank you for the promise in your word,
that even death cannot separate us
from your love found in Christ Jesus.
Grant that we may live lives
worthy of this truth as we recall those
who laid down their lives for the benefit of others.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Almighty God, Father of Heaven and Earth,
hear the prayers which we ask in faith
for the sake of your Son, who conquered death
and stood victorious as the Prince of Peace,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Or

In peace let us pray to the Lord.
We pray for the leaders of the nations,
that you will guide them in the ways of freedom, justice and truth.
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

We pray for those who bear arms on behalf of the nation,
that they may have discipline and discernment,
courage and compassion.
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

We pray for our enemies, and those who wish us harm,
that you will turn the hearts of all
to kindness and friendship.
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

We pray for the wounded and the captive,
the grieving and the homeless,
that in all their trials they may know your love and support.
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Most holy God and Father,
hear our prayers for all who strive for peace
and all who fight for justice.
Help us, who today remember the cost of war,
to work for a better tomorrow;
and, as we commend to you lives lost in terror and conflict,
bring us all, in the end, to the peace of your presence;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathering up all our prayer and praise into one,
as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Father, who art in heaven:

hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.

**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen.

THE PEACE

Let us pray that we may be instruments of your peace....

Where there is hatred, let us sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;
where there is discord, union;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

Grant that we may not so much seek

to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and
it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Jesus said: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.

I do not give to you as the world gives.

Do not let your hearts be troubled,
and do not let them be afraid."

John 14:27

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
and also with you.

It is appropriate that the congregation share with one another a sign of peace

Going Out As God's People

HYMN

[The National Anthem may be sung]

THANKSGIVING

Let us give thanks to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
For all your blessings of love, peace and joy in this world,
We give you thanks, O Lord.

For the work of peacemakers,
negotiators and arbitrators throughout the world,
We give you thanks, O Lord.

For all agencies of reconciliation
and those who heal divided communities and nations,
We give your thanks, O Lord.

For opportunities in our own lives
to bring to an end hatred and division,
We give you thanks, O Lord

For all peace accords, treaties and peaceful ends to conflict,
We give you thanks, O Lord.

For all that opens our hearts towards our neighbour
and enables us to work together for the common good,
We give you thanks, O Lord.

For all that brings release to those with memories of hurt and injury,
for the healing of memories and the restoration to wholeness of life,
We give you thanks, O Lord.

For the commandment to love one another as you love us
and for your call to the world to live in peace and harmony,
We give you thanks, O Lord.

For your Holy Spirit
who enables us to speak for all that is just and true in the world.

We give you thanks, O Lord.

For past generations
who have defended the causes of justice, equality and freedom,

We give you thanks, O Lord.

**For the all the blessings of this life,
for the gift of peace,
the joy of harmony,
and the end of conflict,
we give you thanks, O Lord.
Amen.**

ACT OF COMMITMENT

Let us commit ourselves to responsible
living and faithful service.

Will you strive for all that makes for peace?

We will

Will you seek to heal the wounds of war?

We will

Will you work for a just future for all humanity?

We will

Merciful God, we offer to you the fears in
us that have not yet been cast out by love:
May we accept the hope you have placed
in the hearts of all people,
And live lives of justice, courage and mercy;
through Jesus Christ our risen Redeemer. **Amen**

BLESSING

God grant to the living, grace
to the departed, rest,
to the Church and to the nations, peace and concord;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be with you and remain with you always.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Neither death nor life can separate us from the love of God.
Thanks be to God. Amen

Or

Go in peace. Love one another as Christ has loved us.
Thanks be to God.

Remembrance Sunday Readings

Psalm 4 or Psalm 47 or Psalm 93 or Psalm 126 or Psalm 130

Isaiah 2: 1-5 or Isaiah 10: 33-11: 9 or Ezekiel 37: 1-14

Romans 8: 31-39 or Revelation 1: 1-7

Matthew 5: 1-12 or John 15: 9-17

Any combination of the above may be used.

Additional Collects

FOR COMMITMENT TO RECONCILIATION

Almighty God
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
you call your people into
a common fellowship of peace and love;
grant that we may always seek
reconciliation and forgiveness,
in our own relationships, in the life of our country,
and amongst the family of nations across the world:
May we never fall silent in the face of injustice,
always seek wholeness where there is division,
and continually proclaim the gospel of unconditional love,
given to us in Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen

FOR PEACE IN A BROKEN WORLD

Lord God our Creator,
your Son Jesus Christ prayed
that his disciples might have abundant life;
we gather to bring before you those whose lives are scarred
by the evils of hatred, violence and genocide,
by our inhumanity one to another.
Through the mystery of Christ's suffering
transform our brokenness and disunity
into a new a lasting wholeness and peace:
we ask this through him who suffered, died and rose again,
even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

FOR FORGIVENESS

Loving God,
you made us in your own image
and set us in the midst of your creation;
move us to repentance for our marring of that image
and the destruction of your creation
by our sins of greed and hatred, injustice and warfare;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

COLLECT FOR PEACE

Merciful God,
whose Son called the peacemakers blessed,
remind us of the devastating effects of war
and, in the healing power of the Holy Spirit,
help us to exercise the ministry of reconciliation given to us
so that throughout the whole world
the knowledge of your love may be known
and your kingdom of justice, joy and peace may come.
We ask this through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.